



FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

April 26, 1956

Executive Registry
8-2012

Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Public Law 285, 84th Congress (amending the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949), approved by the President on August 9, 1955, provides for the determination by this Commission of certain claims of nationals of the United States against the Governments of Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania, Italy and the Soviet Union.

In September 1955, I addressed a letter to you requesting the advice and assistance of your Agency specifically with respect to the administration of Section 312 of Public Law 285, which prohibits claim awards to persons who collaborated with any government hostile to the United States during World War II, etc.

I believe that your Agency could also be of great help to this Commission in providing information with respect to other aspects of the determination of claims for property losses in the countries above noted. The most difficult problem faced by the Commission is to determine the fair value of property owned by United States nationals in the foreign countries, which was nationalized, confiscated, or otherwise taken. The claimants themselves, ranging from owners of small agrarian properties, urban dwellings, apartment houses, and small commercial establishments up to large corporations such as Ford Motor Company, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, and International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, in most cases have inadequate evidence as to the value of their property. Furthermore, it is uncertain that this Commission will be able to establish a field staff in the foreign countries for the purpose of appraisal and verification of property values.

I assume that your Agency may have information as to general property values and specific data as to many individual industrial properties in the five foreign countries. Accordingly,

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it is requested that you assign a member of your staff to communicate with Mr. Donald G. Benn, Director, Balkan Claims Division, Code 151, Ext. 6802, of this Commission, in regard to the problem, the availability of pertinent information, and any procedures that may be followed by this Commission to make use of such information.

I will be most appreciative of all advice and assistance which your Agency can furnish to this Commission in the administration of the Public Law 285 claims program.

Sincerely yours,



WHITNEY GILLILAND
Chairman